

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 7, 2010**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Olson and Wulff present. Also present were County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the August 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – MARC&D; EQIP; Food Shelf

Olson – EQIP; RDC; PrimeWest; Personnel

Sandberg – MSI; Personnel

Athey – Prairie 5

Attorney Watson reported that the Raffety trial is coming up and there may be some expenses for depositions and expert witnesses.

Attorney Watson reviewed a recent foreclosure process for the Board's information.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor Knutson:

General	\$16,021.81
Highway	18,408.13
Ditch	<u>420.00</u>
Total	\$34,849.94

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hasslen presented a quote from Hasslen Construction for repairs to the courthouse roof. Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the quote as presented.

Discussion was held on the flag pole on the roof of the courthouse. Hasslen explained that due to liability reasons and the fact that there is already a flag by the Veterans monument, the flag was no longer being flown on the courthouse.

EMD Jim Hasslen reported that due to changes in emergency management activities, video conferencing was going to be installed. It will also be available to the County for other purposes.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch updated the Board on the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and presented the agency's 2011 budget. Auch also expressed concerns with their current office space in the County.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reported that the AgBMP contract was amended to include 2010 repayments.

Wilke updated the Board on the GIS project. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve a \$250 annual subscription fee and to authorize the use of web fusion to make the County's land records available to the public.

Following a break, motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by County Engineer Nick Anderson:

**2010-27**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Big Stone enter into an agreement with the BNSF Railway Company and the Commissioner of Transportation for the installation and maintenance of railway crossing signals at the intersection of County Road 17 with the tracks of the BNSF Railway Company approximately 1.5 Mi. SE of Ortonville, Minnesota, and appointing the Commissioner of Transportation agent for the County to supervise said project and administer available Federal Funds in accordance with Minnesota Statute, Section 161.36. The County's share of the cost shall be 10 percent of the total signal cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair and County Auditor be and they are hereby approved to execute said agreement and any amendments thereto for and on behalf of the County.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the agreement with the BNSF Railway Company and MnDOT.

Engineer Anderson requested that the blade that is budgeted for in 2011 be ordered this fall to take advantage of better pricing. The Board will revisit the request in a month.

The following were also present for the discussion regarding a weir on County Ditch: Rich Huebner, Steve Strei, Bill Pansch, Gary Haugen, Don Kraft, Roxanne Kraft, Steve Emde, Ron Krogsrud, Marcus Krogsrud, Rick Guse, Norman Giese, Craig Johnson, Roger Rheingans, and Ron Schmidt.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the DNR's revocation of the original permit for the culvert on County Road 25 and the condition which was included with the permit for the Thielke Lake project.

DNR representatives Skip Wright and Ethan Jenzen arrived at the meeting to answer questions regarding the revocation of the permit on County Road 25 and the installation of a weir on County Ditch 2. The meeting was moved to the courtroom to accommodate all those present.

Following a lengthy discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the Engineer to design a rock weir according to DNR specifications and build it concurrently with the replacement of the box culvert on County Road 25. DNR representatives present agreed to keep the dialog open with the County and the Watershed District and continue monitoring water levels. The installation of a rock weir will allow the continuing monitoring for a year before a more permanent structure is installed, if necessary.

The meeting was moved back to the board room at 12:30 PM.

Commissioner Olson requested an update on the tower for ham radios.

Engineer Anderson reported that the tower should be completed this afternoon.

HR Director Sue Schultz reviewed a vision insurance option for the cafeteria plan that would be at the employee's expense. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to add vision insurance as an option to the cafeteria plan.

HR Director Schultz reported that IT Technician applications are being screened and scored and interviews will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> by the Technology Committee and Stevens County IT Director Scott Busche.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the hiring of Karin Mack for the Community Resources Program Coordinator position at Grade 9 Step 1 effective September 7, 2010, for up to 25 hours per week.

HR Director Schultz reported that the cafeteria plan document can be amended for changes to the contribution amount for particular groups of employees.

HR Director Schultz presented information on staffing reductions in the courthouse in 2011 and how that may impact restructuring changes.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 12:45 PM to discuss strategy for labor negotiations as per MS §13D.03. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to reopen the meeting at 1:11 PM.

Discussion was held on the preliminary 2011 County budget.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2010-28**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2011 budget be approved and the gross levy be established at \$4,228,000.

The public meeting to take comments on the proposed budget and levy will be held on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Commissioner's Room.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 1:26 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor